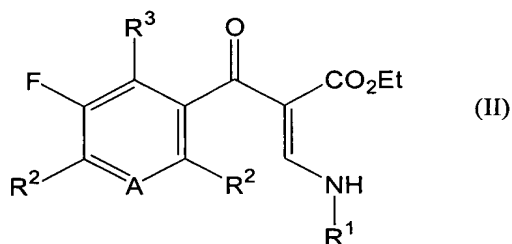
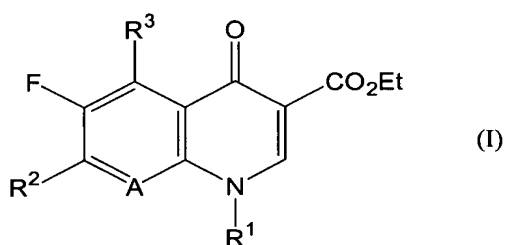


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or its salt, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (II) with potassium phosphate tribasic (K₃PO₄) in an organic solvent:



- wherein, R₁ is cyclopropyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl, or 1-acetoxyp-2(S)-yl; R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen, chloro, or fluoro; and A is CH, CF, CNO₂, or N.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, methyl ethyl ketone, ethyl acetate, ethyl alcohol, dichloroethane, and toluene.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein amount of the potassium phosphate tribasic is 1.5 eq. ~ 2.8 eq. to 1 eq. of the compound of formula (II).
4. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at 60 °C ~ 85 °C.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein the reacting is carried out at 75 °C ~ 80 °C.
6. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the reacting is completed in about 1 ~ 12 hours.
7. (Original) The process of claim 6, wherein the reacting is completed in about 1 ~ 3 hours.
8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~, further comprising a purifying step which comprises filtering a resulting product obtained from the process of any one of claims 1 through 7 to remove any by-product; concentrating the resulting filtrate; adding an organic solvent to the concentrate, followed by washing with water; and concentrating the resulting organic layer.

9. (Original) The process of claims 8, wherein the organic solvent is dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, or a mixture thereof.